

# THE MCGILL DAILY

Volume 81, Number 90/1

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Monday, March 30, 1992

## British Columbia gets tuition freeze

by Martin Chester

VANCOUVER (CUP) — The British Columbia government has made good on its election promise to freeze tuition fees.

In the NDP government's first budget speech last week, finance minister Glen Clark announced a 4.3 per cent increase in funding for colleges and universities, and a one-year tuition fee freeze.

The B.C. announcement a victory for students, said Jacquie Best, chair-elect of the B.C. wing of the Canadian Federation of Students (CFS).

"We were concerned a couple of months ago because it didn't look like it was going to happen, but there was rallying around the issue, and we forced the government to keep its promise," she said.

Fees have increased 190 per cent at universities over the last 10 years, and 254 per cent at colleges. In the same period, inflation rose 77.5 per cent. B.C. students pay about

\$1800 in tuition fees each year.

Post-secondary education minister Tom Perry said the freeze will take effect in September. The prov-

ince will also examine the barriers to colleges and universities, he added.

"We feel good about this. We're

fulfilling a campaign promise we made and, given the difficulty students have had with the Canada Student Loans and our inability to

change things on a federal level, I think this will help students," Perry said.

The Ontario NDP government sparked outrage among students by hiking fees in 1991, despite a pre-election promise to freeze them.

CFS organized a post-card writing campaign which influenced the B.C. government, Best said.

"Given the increases we were going to have, there are students who will be able to attend colleges and universities who otherwise would not have been able to," she said.

Perry also announced the government will increase the number of spaces available in universities and colleges by up to 3000.

But Best said CFS is still concerned about the 10 000 students who were turned away from colleges and universities last year.

The budget pledges a two per cent funding hike to cover inflation, and an additional two per cent to make up for revenue lost because of the tuition freeze.



**Fees have increased 190 per cent at universities over the last 10 years, and 254 per cent at colleges. In the same period, inflation rose 77.5 per cent.**

## Woman wants inquiry into Oka trial

# Kangaroo justice in St-Jerôme

by Elizabeth Caley

Shaney Komulainen, a freelance photographer wrongly arrested during the "Oka crisis" two years ago, just wants to hear the truth.

"I just want answers," she said.

"What's important is knowing why it happened so it can't happen again."

In January 1991, the Canadian army alleged Komulainen threatened to cut off a soldier's legs with a machete six months earlier in Kanesatake. Komulainen was also charged by the Sûreté de Québec (S.Q.) for assault, participating in a riot, obstructing a peace officer and two counts of possession of a weapon.

She was eventually acquitted of all charges last November — but not before having to endure a two and a half week trial in Québec Superior Court.

Komulainen plans to send letters to the S.Q., the Armed Forces, the Police Ethics Commission and the Ministers of Justice and Defence urging internal investigations into her case.

She said she was surprised at the number of "blunders" the S.Q. committed during the investigation. "I didn't think the S.Q. could be that incompetent."

Army spokesperson Gilles Lusignan said he could not comment on such a matter. "If there is

an internal investigation going on currently, we cannot comment. If there is no investigation, there is nothing to comment on."

A press spokesperson at the S.Q.'s Montréal headquarters also declined to comment. "We can say nothing more, her case is closed."

But Komulainen's lawyer Ulrich Gaut-ier said it is important to uncover the truth behind the trial, given the number of loose ends.

"It is important to explain the process that was followed. How can an innocent person be charged with such serious crimes?"

St. Jérôme crown prosecutor Jean-Pierre Boyer defended the prosecution of Komulainen. "It went through a primary inquiry and there was sufficient evidence to go to trial."

Boyer also said that videotaped news footage, which the defense used to absolve Komulainen, was not available for the primary inquiry.

Television news footage and photographs clearly placed Komulainen far from the site of the machete incident.

"A situation close to the one that Sgt. Keable described apparently did happen, but I wasn't there. Thank god it was a media event," Komulainen said.

Many unanswered questions still remain about the case and the evidence gathered against Komulainen.



Shaney Komulainen: freelance photographer arrested at Oka two years ago.

- After the alleged machete event took place, Komulainen was behind military lines and taking photographs for 36 hours.

- Police waited six months before laying charges, making a considerable amount of evidence unretrievable.

- Komulainen, a tall blonde, was mistaken for a short, First

Nations woman with long, dark hair.

- The alleged victim, Sgt. Keable, contradicted his testimony on three occasions.

- Several days before the charges were laid, Komulainen was in a car accident. The S.Q. investigated the accident and took her damaged car to the car pound. When it was

released, one of Komulainen's photos dating back to the crisis went missing. Within the week, charges had been laid against her.

Komulainen said she has no plans to use the investigation for financial gain and no lawsuit is in the works.

"I just want a good reason for why I had to go through this."



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# New deal for public transit attracts praise

by Lysandra Marshall

A new revitalization plan for Montréal's ailing public transport system is being hailed as a step forward by a wide cross-section of citizens groups.

Le Société de Transport de la Communauté Urbaine de Montréal (STCUM) will spend an extra \$17 million annually to boost service and increase a flagging ridership over the next years. The plan runs counter to steady cuts to public transport over the past few years.

Guy Chartrand, of the environmental group Transport 2000, said he was pleased the city was finally investing more, instead of less into public transportation.

"In the last five years there has been a one percent decrease in ridership each year," said Chartrand. "Montréal has been cutting funds to transport at the same time."

"What they are doing now is what we have been asking for a long time."

The money will be spent on creating reserve lanes for busses, increasing bus service, cutting down the number of stops on certain routes, and publishing accurate bus schedules. Services for suburbs and industrial areas, as well as rush hour commuters will be improved.

"We want to create a new image for public transportation in this city," said Jean-Yves Duthel, director of communications for the STCUM.

"People claim to be concerned about the environment these days, but they're still not willing to give up their cars for the environment's sake," said Duthel. "That's why we've concentrated on the hassles of owning a car,

such as traffic, parking, fuel and maintenance costs, rather than focussing on the environmental dangers."

Other city groups are generally pleased with the plan, although some feel some important issues are not addressed. Member of the group Friends for Equal Fares (FEF) James Piecowye, said that plan should also include reduced fares for students.

"When we went to them with our ideas of reduced fares for students, they listened to us," said Piecowye. "I am hoping they realize students are a good group to encourage to use public transport."

"I know a lot of students who don't use the bus or metro, a reduced fare could do a lot to change that."

The plan is particularly notable because it comes at a time when the province has cut subsidies specifically earmarked for public transit. The cutbacks have forced municipalities to make up the shortfall with new taxes.

For the city of Montréal, the shortfall amounted to \$200 million.

"Other municipalities such as those on the South Shore have responded to the provincial cuts by reducing services and raising transit



DAILY PHOTO: LAUREL HUGHES

Guy Chartrand, of Transport 2000.

fares," said Chartrand. "I think the MUC has finally realized that Montréal's public transit needs a lot of improvement."

## Picket lines down in BC

by Sharon Lindores

Vancouver (CUP) — The picket lines are down and the rallies are over, but workers at the University of British Columbia still aren't satisfied.

"Our members feel strongly that they were forced into a settlement by economic and political pressures," said Joe Denofreo, Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE) national representative. "We were subjected to numerous injunctions and other union-busting tactics."

Two union locals went on strike over a week ago, after working without a contract since last April. The strike, involving both administrative and service workers, partly closed down the university.

An agreement granting wage increases was finally ratified last Wednesday.

Many CUPE members are angry over the administration's practice of hiring replacement workers, and encouraging management and students to do union tasks during the strike.

Ann Hutchinson, vice-president of the administrative workers union local, said both locals are calling for the resignations of the university president and two vice-presidents. The locals also want the Board of Governors revamped to better represent the community's interests.

"We're calling for the resignations on the grounds that the administration has not been responsible in the governance of the university," said Hutchinson. "It is not just how they treated us or the students or the faculty with deliberate ambiguous policies, but the authoritarian approach they have taken over a period of time."

"The feeling yesterday was one of anger towards the administration," she said. "A number of members were satisfied with our efforts, but not satisfied with the offer."

Hutchinson was pleased with the university's agreement to expedited arbitration. The agreement commits the university to deal with a backlog of employee grievances.

Workers also hope the university's agreement to carry out job evaluations will result in a gender-neutral wage structure.

Service workers voted 79 per cent in favour and administrative staff 83 per cent in favour of the agreement.

Administrative staff — of which 95 per cent are women — will receive an 8.4 per cent general wage increase over three-year contracts. Their demands for pay equity were met with additional wage increases of five per cent over the three years through a provincial government policy. The university did not offer any money for pay equity.

Hutchinson said the strike was a liberating experience for many women, because it finally addressed their wage inequities.

The strike also helped to strengthen the union locals.

"One of the good things to come out of all this is a strengthened and unified force of two CUPE locals — a force better poised for future negotiations," said Denofreo.

The administration was not available for comment.

## SENATE BRIEFS

Every two weeks or so, the august body of Senate meets to decide what's important. The motley gang of profs, administrators and (a few) student representatives is one of the most powerful organs on campus.

You have several student representatives on this body who just might be speaking on your behalf.

### Too bad, Sam

Vice-principal (Macdonald Campus, Ste-Anne de Bellevue) Roger Buckland proposed a motion that Senate circulate the "Halifax Declaration" throughout the university. The declaration was drawn up earlier this year at a conference of Canadian academic types.

The conference and the resulting document were organized for the Earth summit in Brazil this summer. The declaration calls for the Canadian government and universities to work for "sustainable development" throughout the world.

Senator Sam Noumoff asked Buckland if Senate approval of the motion to circulate the declaration opened an opportunity for circulating other documents.

"Are we to see this as the beginning of bringing toward Senate various noble documents to this august body?" asked Noumoff.

Noumoff added that if this was the case, he had a number of deserving documents for Senate.

Buckland replied that he felt the Halifax declaration was a special case since it deals specifically with the role of universities. Vice-principal academic William Leggett agreed.

Senate passed the motion to circulate the document.

### Sexual harassment assessors' report

Sexual harassment assessor Patricia Wells presented a report of McGill's sexual harassment assessors.

The assessors handled 16 formal complaints and 69 informal complaints. Two of the formal complaints resulted in disciplinary action being taken by principal Dave Johnston.

Forty per cent of cases handled by the assessors were brought by students against students, Wells said — which is good reason for "an educational program" for students.

Student senator André Pogacar asked the principal for clarification on what was meant by "disciplinary action". Johnston replied that



disciplinary action could entail a "range of sanctions... from oral reprimand to dismissal for cause."

Students' Society president Scott Mitic asked if the sexual harassment policy could be expanded to include other forms of harassment, such as racist or homophobic harassment.

Wells replied that as the assessors had "dealt with cases of same-gender harassment", an expansion of the policy was unnecessary.

Senator Helen Anderson asked if the assessors had strategies to prevent recurrences of sexual harassment.

"Well, actually we think so," said Wells, adding that swift action had been taken in one case of sexual harassment which had recurred after it was examined by the university.

Students' Society vp-university affairs Rosalind Ward-Smith said that at a Monday meeting of the joint Senate-Board committee dealing with sexual harassment, students had requested the policy be reviewed.

Ward-Smith said students had a variety of concerns about the policy, including the current dual role of the assessors as arbitrators and advocates for the complainants. Ward-Smith said the question of whether to have a review had been postponed by the committee until after the assessors had conducted a survey of student concerns.

### May the (task) force (on planning and priorities) be with you

Senators haggled and quibbled about various aspects of the implementation of the Task Force on Planning and Priorities, which McGill drafted last year.

The gist of the Task Force is that McGill has to better its undergraduate and graduate programs, increase the amount of research, get the private sector engaged in the university, and attract a lot of francophones and international students. The big dream is to turn McGill into a world-class, high-pressure, Ivy League-type school from hell.

Everyone agreed it was a fine document, but tiny glitches existed here and there. Senator Noumoff then peered over his glasses and said there is a problem with the task force's idea of lowering the number of undergrads while raising the number of grad students. Various departments, including political science, fund their grad programs by exploiting undergrads, he said.

Despite kill-joy bolshies of the likes of Noumoff, principal Johnston kept the feel-good atmosphere at Senate going. He said the only reason the implementation of the task force report is going slow is that the nasty provincial government has been too slow in giving students the tuition fees they deserve and increasing university grants.

Senate next meets Wednesday, April 8, at 14h30 in Leacock 232.

— Fiona McCaw



# THIS UNIVERSITY

**CANADIAN UNIVERSITIES have been flirting with private industry for years. But during the past few years, more and more universities have proposed formal marriages with the corporate sector.**

**Most universities claim their new bedfellow will be a silent partner. But incidents across the country, and south of the border, suggest that even if big firms keep their mouths shut, they have their hands firmly on universities' control buttons.**

by Katie Swoger

Ottawa (CUP) — In the early 70s government funding for post-secondary education began to run dry, and universities began to look elsewhere for cash. Business was more than willing to take up the slack, but not without concessions.

"In 1972 the economic climate changed and a period of contraction began for universities," said Howard Buchbinder, co-author of *The University Means Business*.

With the economic contraction came a retreat from liberal views and the rise of neo-conservative

policies, Buchbinder said.

"The vision shifted to the university as an institution that could aid the economy. In the early 80s we saw the emergence of a new thrust which linked universities more and more to business."

## Wheelin' and Dealin' from sea to sea

Evidence of this trend can be seen at universities across the country.

The University of British Columbia has developed a "dial-an-expert" service to match up faculty with businesses who want to fund research projects.

The University of Guelph is developing a 16-hectare "techno-business park" to cement its lucrative relationship with the agricultural chemistry industry. And Weston Inc. has recently given the university \$1 million to fund a chair in food-packaging technology.

York University recently sold five hectares of its campus to a condominium developer and has plans to sell 225 more hectares to private industry.

The University of Western Ontario accepted a \$750 000 donation of computer equipment by Digital Equipment, in exchange for campus-wide exclusivity for their product.

Dalhousie University gets research funding from a fibre optics company. In turn, the company has

exclusive rights to all research discoveries.

McGill University garnered \$78 million in the 80s through privately sponsored research chairs. (See sidebar for more details).

"There is more and more pressure for universities to move towards business," said Buchbinder. "The knowledge that gets produced gets sold, and there are strings attached."

## Born in the U.S.A.

The adverse effects of large cash flows from private companies are much more obvious in the United States, where the corporate sector has a longer and more involved history of involvement with universities.

The University of Rochester in upstate New York is largely funded by Kodak Eastman, a photo film producer. Recently Rochester refused to allow a graduate student from Japan to enrol in the university.

The student was refused because he had worked for Fuji, a competitor of Kodak's, according to Buchbinder. "Kodak told them they couldn't put him in the grad program because he would bring Kodak's secrets back to Fuji," he said. "The more you have these links, the more business will have control."

Vincent Mosco agreed that private money also involves various forms of private control. Mosco, a professor in Carleton University's Mass Communications department, has studied and taught at a number of American universities.

"Business exerts a great deal of power on American campuses," he said. "A pro-business agenda is promoted."

Sponsorship of professors and chairs is one of the more blatant ways companies exert power, Mosco said.

"They can exert pressure on academics at universities this way. It is a signal that they (the university)

should not appoint someone that would be a critic of the sponsor."

Mosco said a colleague at an American university submitted ten names, including Mosco's, for a professorship sponsored by a telephone company. All ten were to different degrees critics of the telephone system.

The university's response was that none of the ten were qualified because they were too critical, he said.

But Mosco said private control over universities is not confined to private universities. His experience at public Temple University showed him the corporate sector also flexes its muscles at public universities.

"The administration was very careful not to offend the corporate community," he said. "I remember being hauled into the dean's office at Temple after delivering an mildly critical address of the Warner company."

"There is a systematic chilling effect that corporations have on the free speech and objective analysis of scholars," said Mosco.



*Mosco said a colleague at an American university submitted ten names, including Mosco's, for a professorship sponsored by a telephone company. All ten were to different degrees critics of the telephone system. The university's response was that none of the 10 were qualified because they were too critical, he said.*

## Centres of corporate control

The corporate community investment in research is not simply through direct donations. Research dollars are invested in "centres of excellence", "technology transfers" and "spin-off firms".

Centres of excellence are set up at universities through the government and are independent of the university. They have their own boards and are not obliged to comply with university regulations.

Buchbinder said York University has a centre of excellence which does research in space and terrestrial science. Seventeen corporations and eight universities are involved in the project and its aim is to produce marketable products in space technology.

Professors who work at these centres of excellence can pay the university so they don't have to teach, said Buchbinder. They can also require the graduate students working on their projects to sign letters which oblige them to keep the research secret, he said.

Most universities are eager to move towards the kind of research involved in centres of excellence. The Council of Ontario Universities, an

organization of university administrators, supports these centres as an alternative revenue source.

In its 1986 publication, *Bottoming Out*, the Council cautiously welcomed these centres to campuses.

"Technology transfer" is another catch phrase in the research business. What it means is the movement of knowledge from the university to outside community. But in terms of private sponsorship, it means the sale of knowledge from the university to industry.

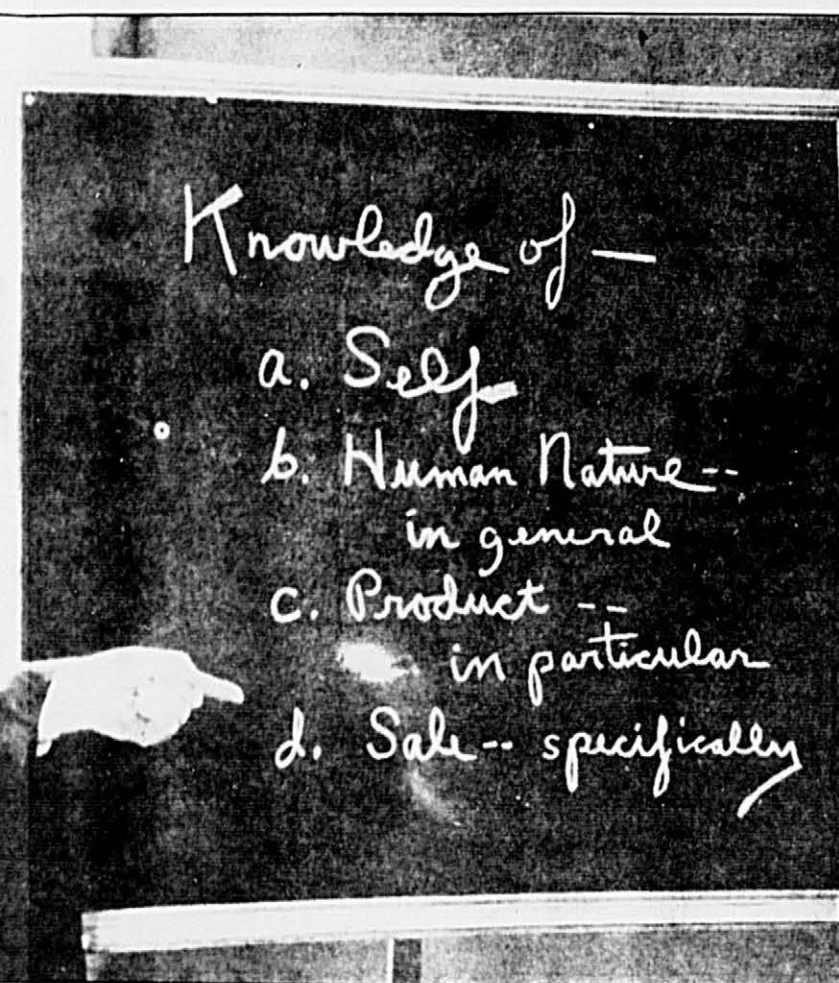
As the Science Council of Canada put it, in their 1987 publication *University Spin-Off Firms — Helping the Ivory Tower Go to Market*, "Ideas conceived in university and government research labs have to be introduced to organizations with vastly different goals and priorities (such as industrial research labs and manufacturing firms) and finally marketed. This complex process is called, simply, 'technology transfer'."

The Science Council of Canada urges universities to encourage an entrepreneurial drive in its staff and to set of "spin-off firms", in order to "increase the number of Canadian-owned enterprises" and "produce jobs".

Katie Swoger



# MEANS BUSINESS\$\$



## Concern for Canada

Mosco said by comparison the Canadian system is much more accessible, egalitarian and open.

"There is more free speech at Canadian universities than in the U.S.," he said. "But there is an obsessive drive with becoming more American."

"My concern is that the turn to private funds will increase as the funding crisis continues."

He said he is concerned with private industry moving into campus space, because in many American cases, business moves in and later demands monopolies.

"Some might say it is not a clear conflict of interest when this happens, but it is," Mosco said. "If you can build a building and lease space to business, what's stopping them from leasing space in an academic building?"

He is concerned that companies will not only lease space in academic buildings, but start leasing out academia by underwriting courses and paying professors' salaries.

"It's not bad for companies to train their workers, but why should it be done at universities? Is (university) a place for business to train workers, or to think critically and independently?"

He said universities have a role in training people, but not as workers who can respond to the needs of specific businesses. It is better to give students a general education than training in a specific skill that will be obsolete after a few years, said Mosco.

## Research for the private good

But teaching is only one part of the university affected by corporate sponsorship. Research is an area of more interest to private sponsors because it's highly lucrative for businesses.

Buchbinder said with the high cost of research and the low amount of public funding, professors are looking more and more for private monies.

He said this has forced professors to become more

entrepreneurial, moving research findings increasingly into the private sphere.

"There is a shift from social knowledge to market knowledge," he said.

Buchbinder said in the past, professors' research was available to the public and the academic community. Now when discoveries are made in many cases, they are the property of the company that sponsored the research, he said.

"The researcher is not responsible to his or her peers, but to the company."

Centres of excellence (see sidebar) are an extreme example of this move to private research directly benefiting only private industries.

Private funding of university research such as the centres sets up a conflict between applied research, which is marketable and productive for business, and pure research, which is more abstract and less immediately practical.

Universities are pressured to do research which will directly benefit private industry, and, supposedly, the rest of the country.

"The thrust of research for business is for applied research," said Buchbinder. "There is a move away from research of inquiry, research that you are not sure where it is going to lead you."

Bruce McFarlane, a Carleton sociology professor who specializes in professions and education, said it would be detrimental to let pure research go by the wayside.

"Unless we have curiosity-directed researchers, I don't think we're going to have any major breakthroughs anywhere," he said.

"One really can't tell what the contribution of scientific research will be. It may be years later that an inventor will click with it."

The space shuttle is seen as a triumph of modern technology, McFarlane noted. But in fact Einstein and others discovered the scientific principles behind launching a shuttle through pure research, he said.

Industry, he said, is really only interested in research with a practi-

cal purpose.

## Not in the business of education

This drive for increased corporate involvement in research has been encouraged and advanced by a group called The Corporate-Higher Education Forum. It is a national coalition of 32 university presidents and the CEOs of 38 major corporations, like Bombardier, Shell, Bell Canada and Xerox.

In its 1984 publication, *Partnership for Growth*, the forum called on universities to access "corporations' awareness of current market trends to guide research and education."

"Corporations must define the need for collaboration in terms of the corporate mission," the report continued. "This need for collaboration may represent a need for qualified graduates or a need to extend the corporation's R&D capability."

The forum gives universities no illusion they are involved in funding research for the advancement of education or in the interest of the university. It states that corporate involvements should be motivated by self-interest and that corporations are not in the "business of education."

What this means for universities is money for research which will advance private business—applied research—and nothing more.

Business is not interested in funding the liberal arts and humanities, said McFarlane.

"It's not a university unless you have the arts and humanities. All you have is a technical school," he said. "(Arts and humanities) are very important, but generally speaking that's not the way companies see things."

## More fees, less teaching

Buchbinder said the increasing role of business at universities is leading to the marginalization of undergraduate students and faculty.

"Students are getting screwed because the whole quality of teaching is eroding," he said.

He said students are faced with larger classes, less access to profes-

sors, and higher fees because the priority for money and professor's time is put on research.

In addition to this, students are being asked to pay more for less. In 1991, Stuart Smith's Commission of Inquiry on Canadian University Education recommended raising tuition so that it would cover 25 per cent of the university's cost, from the current rate of 17 per cent.

"There is more and more privatization where the users, the students, end up paying more of the bill."

Pressure is also being put on professors to become more economically lucrative and do research that is sellable, said Buchbinder.

"Administrations may use economic difficulties to gain more control over professors. For example, by not giving them tenure, they can be fired."

"If you are a classicist, you are not about to get a business to donate money. The humanities and social science more and more in this process have become marginalized."

He said the academic community has convinced themselves that corporate involvement can only be beneficial, with no strings attached.

"People think it is a good thing. They think they can control the problems," he said.

"But we're talking about institutional change. We're altering what the knowledge that is produced is like, the relation of students to professors, the availability of knowledge."



## Industry-hugging on the hill

Few universities in Canada have promoted such an aggressively pro-corporate agenda during the past decade as our very own McGillicuddy U.

McGill's love affair with private cash comes partly from its prickly relationship with the provincial government and ivy-league pretensions. In the late 70s, with the Parti Québécois' sloop to power, the provincial government directed money away from McGill's bloated coffers towards new, smaller-scale universities. Under the Université de Québec network, satellite universities were set up in working-class cities across the province.

Although Liberal science and higher education minister Lucienne Robillard recently promised McGill funding proportional to its student population, the university seems to be skeptical of public funding.

McGill needs to continuously justify its existence as an anglo university in a city with a declining English population. Its best

solution to date has been to define itself as a "world-class" university.

McGill's approach is outlined in the *Report on the Task Force on Priorities*, an influential planning paper released last year by McGill administrators.

The report includes a chapter promoting "technology transfer and university-industry interaction". Many have suggested this interaction will lead to increased private-sector influence at McGill.

"Such close ties with industry will inevitably transform the priorities set within the university," Polisci professor Sam Noumoff told the *Daily* earlier this year.

Departments coordinating links between industry and the university have been reorganized and given extra funding during the past two years. The changes give the university more resources to forge links with the corporate sector.

The chapter also calls for a greater emphasis on applied research. Critics have suggested this focus may detract from "pure" science research.

Robin LeBaron



# THE MCGILL DAILY

## COMMENT

### Fertilizer and Frumpenstance

The last time we saw her still kicking, she seemed just fine.

We don't mean to sound morbid now that she's dead and all, but we had no idea she was about to pass away to the big tube in the sky. She seemed so bouncy and radiant when she floated by us in the Voyageur bus station. She blossomed amidst the bus fumes.

We had seen her show on the tube a few times. We recalled how she had "plugged us into the world" on *The Journal* with her "impressive sang-froid, her almost anachronistic noblesse oblige", as John Haslett Cuff wrote so eloquently in his article in *The Globe and Mail* on Friday.

From that poignant moment in the bus station, we wanted to become avid gardeners — slowly working our way up through the manure of campus life, going on to life in marginal gardener jobs in Westmount. And finally, if all went well, we'd join the elite of gardeners, on the CBC grounds in Ottawa.

What a glorious dream it was. Some small part of that dream died last week, when she died.

That not-so-fresh morning, in the bus station, we couldn't think of what to say to our idol. Our green thumbs itched. She passed us by. We vowed never to be unequipped again. We would always be properly equipped, whether for that rare chance to interview a celebrity or for the yearly season of spreading-about of manure. We will pass the lesson on to our offspring, if we have any.

Although she did buy her plants fully grown, she was a good gardener. Proficient in the art of petunias and tulips, she also dabbled in the field of journalism, a line of work which we hold in the highest regard.

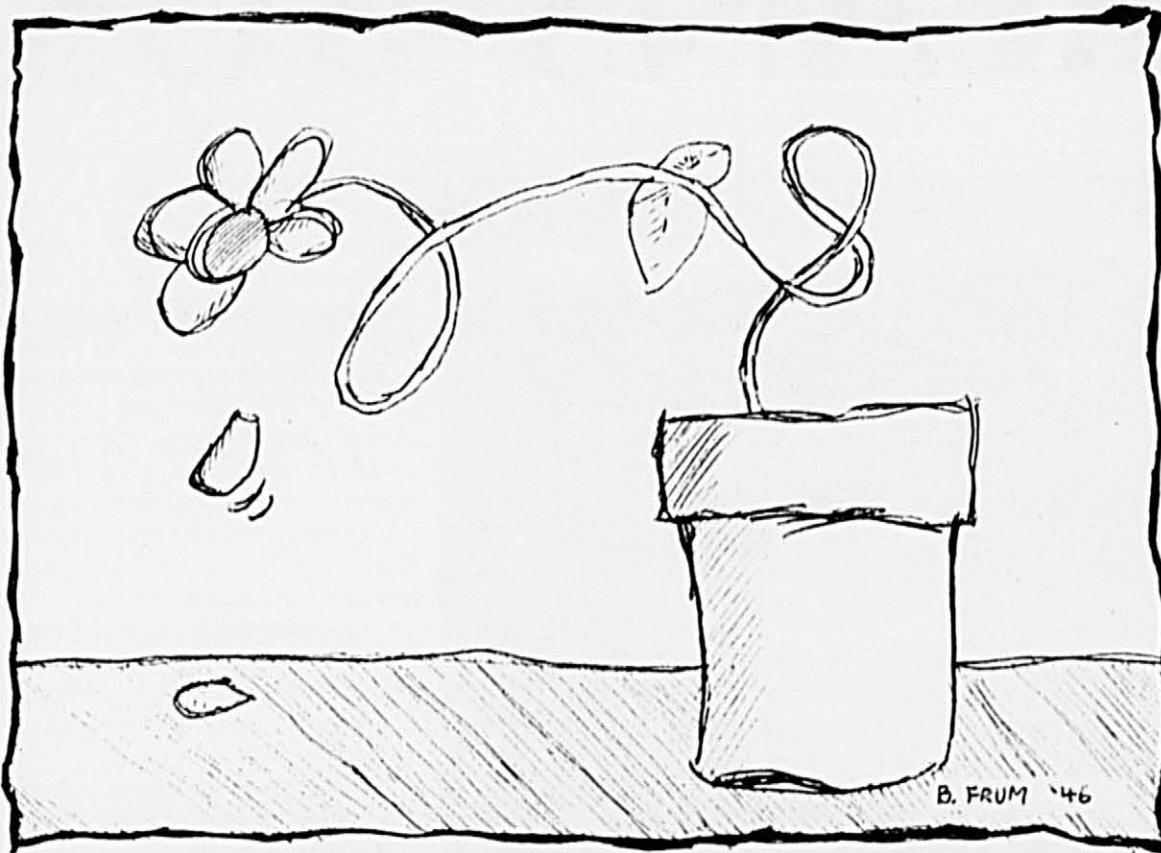
She was even known for occasionally combining her two passions, flinging bits of manure into the living rooms of the nation.

Bless the nation's media for agreeing with us, and setting aside hundreds of column inches from all the stories about the Depression to her honour. Perhaps Cuff said it best: "The power of [gardening] is so pervasive, so subtle, and yet so obvious, that we can't yet begin to sense the void her death has created."

The nation's flowerbeds won't be the same without her.

Katerina Cizek

Alex Roslin



## LETTERS

of Ms. Wilson and Ms. Curtis, in implicitly refuting Ms. Borins' view on feminism with their comments (*Tribune*, March 10-16), is a "disgrace", which "wrecks [the *Tribune*]'s credibility and weakens its authority", while also "disempowering" the feminist movement.

Ponder, then, Gruber's initial claim: If public displays of such conflict are unpleasant, then presumably no one can derive any pleasure from reading his letter, yes? That's fine.

If Mr. Gruber wants us to be angry that he is playing out his personal conflict in public, I do not think we should deny his request.

Who can deny that it is the ultimate hypocrisy to disparage public expressions of conflict between feminists, while slamming the conduct of two feminists in the same letter? Who can deny the particular repugnance of seeing a public figure (Gruber is Architecture Rep to SSMU) use a flimsy theoretical argument to mask such a personal attack?

Why is his argument flimsy? Because feminism is a massive society-wide movement, and public debate and conflict are both inevitable and vital parts of its very nature. On the one hand, it would be *physically impossible* to maintain a united front in the feminist movement, short of creating a totalitarian feminist state. On the other, it seems to me that carrying on the feminist debate in private is precisely what women would not want. Who wants to be empowered behind closed doors?

If anyone is guilty of disgraceful conduct, then, it is Gruber, who by his own logic has "wrecked his credibility and weakened his authority", not only as a McGill student, but as SSMU Rep. as well. Luckily I think his ideas are wrong, so that I can chastise him publicly

like this without reservation.

David Outerbridge  
MAI Political Science

### To Vogel

To the Daily:

This is an open letter to any McGill Arts student who has ever considered, hoped or dreamed of having a History Minor included in their degree. Did you know that currently such a minor can be obtained by Science students, but not by those of us in pursuit of a B.A.? It's time to change that policy.

I am preparing a letter for the History Department, and specifically to Professor Vogel, but I need other names to add to my own in order to make my proposal effective.

We all know how slowly the wheels of administration turn at McGill; please help me to speed up the process by giving the History Department a spur to action. If this proposal has interested you, please call me (847-1591).

Megan Swift  
Russian and Slavic Studies

### Poor piece

To the Daily:

"McGill too Snotty for its own Good" (*The Daily*, March 18) is a poor piece of journalism that reinforces a number of negative stereotypes and prejudices.

Eugenio Bolongaro states "McGill has always been aloof from the realities of Québec." Really. In the early 1800s, there was no liberal, non-sectarian education available in Québec. The Royal Institution for the Advancement of Learning, (a precursor to McGill) established a school system that was permissive rather than restrictive; a true system of public education, instead of one that served a social and religious elite.

Rather than seeing McGill as an

anachronism, perhaps the objective UQAM researcher André Gagnon should look over his prejudices which categorize McGill as "un bastion de la domination anglo-saxon." Gerald Leblanc, writing in *La Presse* (March 1990), describes a far-richer community: "Même la courant nationaliste figure en bonne place chez les diplômés en droit de McGill: Jacques-Yvan Morin, Yves Duhaime, et Pierre Péladeau; Guy Bouthillier, le président du Mouvement Québec Français; Ludmilla de Fougères (la présidente de l'Office de la langue française)."

"How can people appreciate McGill when most of the people it graduates leave the province," asks Gagnon. Of 110 000 living McGill graduates, almost 50 000 live in the Montréal region, 35 000 in other parts of Canada, 11 000 in the U.S., and the rest in 155 countries around the world. Many people do appreciate the bridges that McGill graduates have created between Québec and the rest of the world.

Fred Sweet of the CSN says that McGill's lack of commitment to the community is breeding massive resentment. Perhaps Mr. Sweet is not aware that McGill students run the largest blood donor clinics in Montréal, as well as CKUT and the *McGill Daily* (English and French); that the Program for Affordable Housing at the School of Architecture has started a small revolution in providing homes for young families; or that McGill's teaching hospitals and affiliated centres have largely determined the quality of health-care in Québec.

Rather than being snotty, perhaps McGill's fault is its modesty, for it seems that the people interviewed in Roslin's article are unaware of the university's contributions to Québec society.

Ernest Alston, MBA1

letters continued on page 8

## LETTERS

### Johnston was disappointed

To the Daily:

I was disappointed to read Alex Roslin's centrefold on the economics department. Although his interview with Professor Naylor highlighted a number of important problems in the department, the overall article was biased and exaggerated.

I was a member of the most recent economics cyclical review. To pretend that this department exemplifies the problems of McGill, or that it represents the "unfortunate decline of McGill U", is irresponsible. Five years ago, when the previous cyclical review was published, it was one of the most problematic, unappealing economics departments in North America. Five years later, the chairpersons of the economics department of Queen's and Western University, assert that the progress the McGill department has made is astounding.

Despite Professor Naylor's assertions that the University has blindly thrown money at economics, this funding has enabled the department to compete financially with other universities, to attract a number of internationally renowned scholars, to increase the courses offered to undergraduates, and to increase the number of graduate fellowships.

Ignoring the enormous progress that economics has made is belittling the important view and efforts of other members of the department.

In the article Roslin writes, "The Daily interviewed economics professor Tom Naylor to figure what's gone wrong." I shudder to think that the *Daily* would be so ignorant as to take one person's view as the gospel on right or wrong, or that Professor Naylor would be the last word on the "decline of McGill U". Professor Naylor's views should not be suppressed, because they add to the diversity of academic debate, however, they represent a very distinct minority in the department. Perhaps if Mr. Roslin's objective was to present a balanced portrayal of the department, or even a fair one, he would have spoken to, at the very least, one other professor.

Alex Johnston  
History U3

### Flimsy argument

To the Daily:

I write concerning a letter written by Mr. David Gruber, which appeared in the *McGill Tribune* of March 17-23. Gruber begins by noting, "it is never a pleasant thing to watch others play out conflicts in public."

He goes on to say that the behaviour

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Printed on 100% recycled paper

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**Get your bike ready for summer!** The Students' Society is sponsoring a bicycle repair workshop on Sat. April 4th. Introductory mechanics 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Advanced mechanics 2:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m. Register April 1st 5:00 SSMU Office! Only \$8 per workshop.

**HELP!** "Students for Accessible Welfare" (Quebec PIRG) is looking to compile a Quebec guide to the Welfare Act. We need your experiences! 398-7432 (Darren)

**Lesbians, Bisexuals and Gays of McGill** offers peer counselling 5 days per week. Drop in or give us a call. 398-6822. Union 417.

### HEALTHY WOMEN,

age 18-35, not on contraceptive pill or other medication, for research at Royal Victoria Hospital. Two five-hour visits required. Compensation \$128 for time. Must be EITHER: overweight with normal, regular menstrual cycles and no excess body hair OR normal weight, with irregular menses and excess body hair. For details call Mary or Marie-Jo, 842-1231, local 4127 (office) or 5898 (machine)

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# Health clinic waits for government action

by Ita Kendall

Montréal (CUP) – Residents of Pointe St. Charles are waiting to see whether the government will force them to give up control over their community health centre.

Earlier this month, over 600 citizens in the area voted unanimously to fight to keep their 24-year-old clinic in community hands instead of turning it into a provincially organized CLSC (Centres Locaux de Services Communautaires).

Despite a meeting with provincial health minister Marc Yvan Côté last Saturday, the future of the Pointe St. Charles Community Clinic is still threatened, clinic representatives told supporters at a meeting last Thursday. The 200 people who attended the meeting learned that Côté had not yet made a decision about the clinic's status.

"Before meeting us the minister had a very strict position, but after our meeting he showed an opening and he was very impressed by the support for the clinic in the community," said clinic director Jocelyne Bernier.

"At the end of the meeting he said he would get back to us early this week (March 23 or 24)."

But Côté had not contacted the clinic as of last week.

The present clinic has a very high level of community control, and it is involved in a range of services

beyond strictly health issues.

Under the liberal government's health-reform law (Bill 120) the Pointe St. Charles clinic must become a CLSC if it wishes to retain its funding of close to \$3 million.

"Côté said 'Let's try to negotiate a special status for the clinic.' He was really impressed by the mobilization of the community here," said Lorraine Guay, a long time nurse at the clinic who is now helping organize the fight to maintain the clinic's status and funding.

"We wrote a letter to the minister to jog his memory about the clinic and we had one thousand post cards [supporting the clinic] printed up," Bernier said. The postcards were distributed at the Thursday morning meeting and none were left an hour and a half later.

According to Bernier, the community is fighting to have their clinic's status recognized legally and permanently.

"It has to be part of the law," she said. "We don't just want a decision from the minister. We want a definitive settlement where the status of the clinic won't be left to the discretion of successive health ministers."

Guay said she was hopeful the minister

would decide to start negotiating with the community about the clinic very soon. She would not say what additional pressure tactics the support committee might employ.

The community clinic is also getting support from outside Pointe St. Charles and several of those supporters came to the Thursday morning meeting. Former Parti Québécois minister Denis Lazure promised that his party would change the health reform law and recognize the clinic when they next form a government.

Mary Safoah Poku is a retired teacher and long time resident of the Pointe. She was at Thursday's meeting because she said the clinic is especially important to older people in the area. "We have many older people that use the clinic," said Safoah Poku. "If they go to the

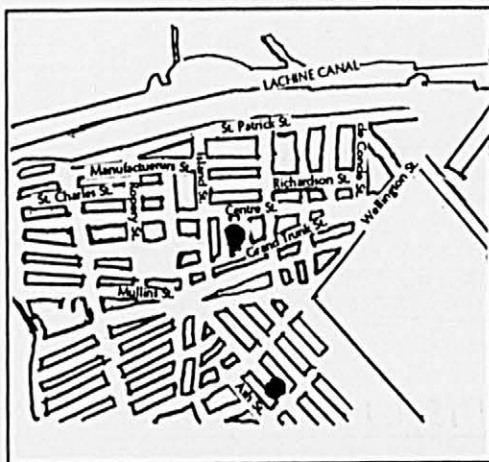
Montreal General Hospital they have to sit and sit and sit."

"With this clinic a doctor will go at night to see them if they need it."

According to Bernier, the clinic serves a high proportion of both the

very young and the older citizens in the Pointe St. Charles community.

"We see two out of three senior citizens living in this area and 52 per cent of children in the 0-5 year old group," she said.



## EVENTS

Dr. Henry Morgentaler will be speaking about Abortion, Leacock 132, 19h30. \$3 McGill students/\$6 general public.

Arab Students' Association are accepting nominations for next years executive. Applicants must go to Union 402 with a valid McGill ID by 15h, Wednesday April 1. Office hours 14h-16h. Info: 6814.

Palestine Solidarity Committee is having a "Land of Palestine" day featuring books, food, documentaries, art, and free Arabic coffee. Room 301, 10h-17h.

The Accounting Club is presenting an informal drop-in session with "real live" CMA's for you to talk to. 17h30-19h, Bronfman 110.

Allied Jewish Community Services is recruiting volunteers to work the Shalom Line. An orientation meeting is set for April 7. Info: 735-3541 ext. 3380.

CUSO-Québec and Conseil Central de Montréal present a discussion on 500 years of resistance by First Nations people to colonialism. 17 to 19h, 1815 Delormier, Salle d'en haut.

## The joy of women's space

The McGill Women's Union is a volunteer-run and staffed student organization in room 423 of the Rosa Luxemburg building. Every day, women stop in for a cup of coffee. Some women use our extensive library; other call for referrals to women's organizations and services. We operate an at-cost birth control service and sponsor events each year.

Next year we will need all sorts of coordinators. If you have an idea for next year, come to a meeting. We can help with funding, space, and the use of an office. If you'd like to get involved but don't know how, sign up for volunteer staffing.

Don't wait until you're fifty to wake up. If you plan on getting involved next year, come to our meeting Monday, March 30, at 17h30.

## LETTERS

### Anti-intellectual vitriol

To the Editor:

Professor Naylor in his interview (*Daily*, March 18, 1992) attacks the relevance of current economic research, citing as an example the work on estimation of affinity measures between distributions.

His claim is that it will not "cut the bread lines", and one cannot disagree; but anti-intellectual vitriol by a professor is not helpful either. The trouble is that "solving" social and economic problems is not an easy task; it requires thought and study, rather than clichéd diatribes, to gain understanding of the

problem and attempt to develop solutions.

The information on the economy is typically represented by statistical data and indices; not all information is of equal value. It is the task of the econometrician to develop the best methods of extracting valuable information. If one wishes to evaluate whether the economic indicators were generated consistently with one theory rather than another (recall the recent debate: start of recovery or continuing recession) work such as that ridiculed by Professor Naylor provides improvements in our ability to do so. Incidentally,

one of its authors, Yanqin Fan, is among the best in Canada, and one of the very few women econometricians. Does her work give definitive answers to the questions we are interested in, even in econometrics only? Obviously not! Are advances such as made in her work going to help improve our understanding of the economy? One certainly hopes so! Are econometricians going to "cure" the economy of its problems? Hardly, and no more so are other economists, however "relevant". One hopes that the students at McGill will gain serious knowledge that will provide them with the understanding and the tools useful

for work towards their future benefit and that of the society as a whole.

Victoria Zinde-Walsh  
Associate Professor of Economics

### No conspiracy

To the Editor:

Re: McGill too snotty for its own good

How disappointing to see such drivel beside the astute commentary of Prof. Tom Naylor. That's all we need: another opinion piece on the "WASPiness" of McGill and its imminent demise. Although I too believe that McGill is obliged to redefine its priorities in the face of hard economic times and a changing Montréal community, I find it next to impossible to credit any article that quotes "researcher" André Gagnon who states that the Montréal business community "once ruled all of Canada" and that the "existing structure of Canada...aims to assimilate Québec and have the Québec and have the Québec nation disappear." Is Mr. Gagnon's thesis really on the decline of anglo institutions or is he perfecting an anglo business conspiracy theory? To give credence to the ever present paranoid separatist delusions concerning the cultural decimation of Québec at the hand

of its Anglophone oppressors is always entertaining, but really, is it relevant or necessary?

Messieurs Bolongaro and Gagnon seem to forget that McGill exists in a Canadian context and has served for years students coming from all over Canada, not just Montréal. I agree that an international student body is essential to the McGill community, but as a partially federally funded university, McGill must also maintain a federal profile. As to the ridiculous statement that McGill only recently opened its doors to Québécois(es) and Jewish students, I invite Mr. Gagnon to peruse the McGill directory of Graduates, available in the McLennan Reference Dept., that shows clearly that both Québécois(es) and Jews as well as international students have attended McGill since its inception. As a graduate of the mostly "pur laine" institution that is Université Laval, I can assure you that McGill is steps ahead of its Québec counterparts when it comes to the ethnic diversity of its students. But then, the factual and intelligent research and commentary is never as much fun to read as damning conjecture.

Katherine Shipley  
MLIS 1

## HYDE PARK

## A product of your racist environment

Opinion by Mariame Kaba

First off, I'd like to thank M.D. Pollitt (see letter of March 23) for helping the BSN to prove its point. How can we fault you for your ludicrous remarks, which stem from an incredible amount of ignorance, when you are simply a product of the racist environment in which you live.

We just have to hope that with our Black Studies Courses (which I am sure that you will rush to enroll in), we won't end up with as many ignoramus on this campus. Your empty rhetoric and fruitless questions don't conceal certain painfully evident points.

As a race, black people have not been the ones who have been concerned with the question of how much black blood makes a person black?

However that question has been forever etched in the minds of people like you. You may be the person having trouble differentiating between who is black and who is not. Let me help you with this dilemma. You may not be well aware of this but in this society one drop of black blood is enough to classify a person as black. Black and White in North America still equals Black in 1992. You are the ones who have made it so. You are the ones who have a preoccupation with

classifications. You, you and your kind, have been the ones obsessed with finding out just who has any amount of black blood.

From South Africa to North America white people have had a vested interest in preserving their "pure white blood". We at BSN are not concerned with the business of Shadism. We'll leave that department up to you, for I am sure that you will tell us just how much black blood is acceptable to you.

So why don't you go back to your drawing board and come up with a comprehensive classification for us black people to know just how many drops of black blood will make us immune to your racism. I hope that this way of theorizing is well... "white" enough for you.

Finally making light of the rape of our grandmothers and great grandmothers by your forefathers shows the complete disregard that you must have for Black people's humanity. I'd like to see just how far you would get with making light of German soldiers' rape of Jewish women during World War II.

Oh! I'm sorry. You would probably never dream of being that offensive to a fellow "human" being. One has to wonder what level you would put us on! Or do we really?

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